

Case 2904

Nesopupa Pilsbry, 1900 (Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed conservation

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the name *Nesopupa* Pilsbry, 1900 for a genus of land snails by the suppression of *Ptychochilus* Boettger, 1881, an unused senior objective synonym.

1. *Ptychochilus* was proposed by Boettger (1881, p. 47) as the name of a subsection of the section *Vertigo* Müller, 1774 (in the genus 'Pupa Drap.') for a group of Pacific island land snail species. There are two alternative original spellings of Boettger's name: *Ptychochilus* (p. 47) and *Ptychochylus* (p. 48). The type species of *Ptychochilus* is *Pupa tantilla* Gould, 1847 (p. 197) by original designation. The taxonomic group concerned is currently treated as a genus in either the PUPILLIDAE (e.g. Smith, 1992, p. 287) or the VERTIGINIDAE (e.g. Vaught, 1989, p. 80) and is one of the most widespread genera of terrestrial Mollusca. Species are most numerous in the islands of the Indo-Pacific region (especially the Hawaiian Islands), but occur also, for example, in India, Southeast Asia, Australasia and the islands of the Indian Ocean; the genus has also been recorded from Africa and St. Helena and from the Galapagos Islands.

2. Pilsbry (1900, p. 431) introduced the name *Nesopupa* implicitly as a replacement name for *Ptychochilus* Boettger, 1881, considering the latter name preoccupied by *Ptychocheilus* Agassiz, 1855 (p. 227) (Osteichthyes). The name *Ptychochilus* of Gill (1865, p. 70) and Jordan (1877, p. 58) is an incorrect subsequent spelling of *Ptychocheilus* Agassiz, 1855 (see also Eschmeyer, 1990, p. 348) and is unavailable. Pilsbry's action was valid at the time but, under Article 56(b) of the modern Code, 'even if the difference between two genus-group names is only one letter, these two names are not homonyms'. *Ptychochilus* Boettger, 1881 is thus not a junior homonym of *Ptychocheilus* Agassiz, 1855 and is available as a senior objective synonym of *Nesopupa* Pilsbry, 1900.

3. Acceptance of the priority of *Ptychochilus* Boettger, 1881 (or its alternative original spelling *Ptychochylus*) over *Nesopupa* Pilsbry, 1900 would overturn accustomed usage. Neither *Ptychochilus* Boettger nor its alternative spelling appears to have been used as the valid name of this taxon since the proposal of *Nesopupa* by Pilsbry in 1900. *Nesopupa*, on the other hand, has been and continues to be used extensively, e.g. Abbott (1989, p. 213), Chambers (1991, pp. 309, 317, 318), Smith (1992, p. 292). A listing of 15 representative references during the past 70 years is held by the Secretariat. The family-group name NESOPUPINAE Steenberg, 1925 (p. 201) is based on *Nesopupa* and is also generally accepted, e.g. Pilsbry (1948, pp. 870, 1006), Zilch (1959, p. 149), Vaught (1989, p. 80). Acceptance of the priority of Boettger's names over *Nesopupa* would introduce unnecessary confusion into the nomenclature of a widely known and clearly understood genus and of a well-established subfamily.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following generic names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
 - (a) *Ptychochilus* Boettger, 1881;
 - (b) *Ptychochylus* Boettger, 1881 (alternate original spelling of *Ptychochilus*);
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Nesopupa* Pilsbry, 1900 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation of the replaced nominal genus *Ptychochilus* Boettger, 1881 *Pupa tantilla* Gould, 1847;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *tantilla* Gould, 1847, as published in the binomen *Pupa tantilla* (specific name of the type species of *Nesopupa* Pilsbry, 1900);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Ptychochilus* Boettger, 1881, as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *Ptychochylus* Boettger, 1881, as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

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